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Roy Romer
Governor

Thomas M. Vernon, M.D.
Executive Director

January 26, 1990

David P. Simonson
Manager
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations
Rocky Flats Area Office
P.O. Box 928
Golden, CO 80402-0928

Re: Pond sampling and additional analyses

Dear Mr. Simonson:

On January 3, 1990 the Water Quality Control Commission gave preliminary final approval to revised radionuclide standards for Walnut and Woman Creeks. Since these new ambient-based site-specific standards are more stringent than those previously applicable, we are requesting specific analyses for plutonium, americium and uranium prior to each discharge from the ponds, in addition to the analyses previously performed. Because the new standards are more restrictive, it is no longer possible to use gross alpha as a screen for these parameters. Gross alpha and gross beta analysis will continue to be used to determine the need for specific analysis for other radionuclides for which standards have been adopted. These expanded analyses will now be necessary for the State to determine the safety of a discharge from a water quality standpoint, as contemplated in the Agreement in Principle.

As I am sure you are aware, some of these analyses may take significant analytical time, yet we need to obtain analytical results as close to the discharge event as possible. We would appreciate getting as much advance notice as possible of projected discharge dates in order to anticipate and expedite this analysis. We have concluded that, with adequate prior notice, our laboratory can have the results of analyses for all parameters, including organics, inorganics and radionuclides to us within two weeks of receiving the samples. We believe that that turn-around time is necessary for the sampling to be as close to contemporaneous with the discharge as possible. Please let us know if this presents an insurmountable problem for your laboratory.

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Lastly, as you know, we are still waiting for DOE's draft revised pond sampling plan for our review. Please forward this to us as soon as possible as we will need to have an acceptable plan before this next pond sampling.

Thanks for your continued cooperation and assistance with respect to these matters.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Frohardt
Program Manager
Rocky Flats Program Unit

k/jl/le

c: Tim Holeman, Governor's Office
Bob Shankland, EPA
Annette Barnard, Local Governments
Tom Looby, CDH
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